

State of Nebraska, here with Linda Phillips, their area representative and others. Would you foreign students, exchange students, please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Thank you. Thank you very much for visiting with us. And under the south balcony we have guests visiting today, Mayor Bernie Simon from Omaha and Bart McEvoy, guests of the Omaha delegation. Thanks to all of you for taking the time and the trouble to visit the Legislature. Senator Hefner, please, followed by Senator Lamb.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support Senator Baack's motion. And I just want to speak to a part of the bill. I want to speak first to the financing part of the bill. As you know, I have always been a strong supporter of NRDs in our state. We keep mandating the NRDs new programs or expanded programs to implement but still we will not appropriate enough money for them to carry out their duties. A little while ago I had a Page pass out a survey and this survey was titled, "Nebraskans Favor Immediate Government Action on Water Quality Problems". This survey was taken by the Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and called the Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey. The survey was taken in the fall of 1986 and just released last month. And so I thought you would be interested in it. Nearly 2,000 Nebraskans were interviewed by telephone. And I just want to read part of the survey to you. And you have it on your desk. The first question asked was, "Do you think there may be man-made chemicals in drinking water which could affect your health?" A large majority, 77 percent, believed that there were potentially dangerous chemicals in the water. And to get some idea about the seriousness of the problem, respondents were asked, "Do you think this is a serious problem, a moderately serious problem or a problem that is not too serious?" And 39 percent said it was a serious problem. And it goes on and on. But the bottom part of this is, "What do you think we ought to do about this problem?" And those who felt it was a problem requiring immediate action were asked, "Would you be willing to pay a slight tax increase to have the government do more work on the problem?" Seventy-five percent favored the tax increase to solve the problem. Seventy-five percent favored a slight increase in taxes. And so I just thought that you would like to know that. Federal water projects used to be funded by the federal...by federal dollars 100 percent. Now, federal projects require a minimum of 25 percent match by state and local funds. I feel that the day for a 100 percent federal dollars for projects is gone. I certainly believe this. I have three NRDs